

Spring 2010



the chatterbox



Crabapple Blossom @ Cool Creek Park



Scarlet Tanager @ River Road Park

in this issue:

camp registration
Spring migration hikes
Spring break programs
tails 'n trails
battle of the bands

Hamilton County Commissioners

Christine Altman
Steven Holt
Steven Dillinger

Hamilton County Council

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Hamilton County Park Board

Andrew Prather	Mark McCauley
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Larry Roudebush	Stephen Andrews

Mission Statement

The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department shall exist to serve the leisure and recreational needs of the residents and tourists of the county. We will strive to be the leader in providing well-maintained, high-quality passive parks and facilities, excellent programs and services, and the preservation of greenspace to enhance the quality of life in the county.

Park Board Meetings

Hamilton County Parks and Recreation park board meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Cool Creek Nature Center Auditorium, located at 2000-1 East 151st Street in Carmel. The meetings are open to the public.

Park Hours

All parks operated by Hamilton County Parks and Recreation are open 365 days a year from dawn to dusk. Some sections of the park may be closed due to special events or shelter reservations. Please refer to *The Chatterbox* or call the administration office.

The Chatterbox is distributed in March, June, September, and December. If you would like to be on our mailing list or have an address change, please call the Administration Office at 317-770-4400.

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For info on other parks visit:
www.hampa.org www.inpra.org

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It's Tulip Time!

By Gary Knowlton, Coxhall Gardens Park Manager

Hamilton County Parks and Recreation wants to invite you to Coxhall Gardens this spring to view over 17,000 tulip bulbs that were planted last fall. The tulip, for all its spectacular beauty, is one of the easiest flowers to grow successfully in the garden. Plant a bulb in the fall and even a novice gardener can expect to see a beautiful flower come spring.

The tulip is a perennial flower. This means that a tulip should be expected to return and bloom year after year. But for all intents and purposes this isn't always the case. Most tulip lovers content themselves with treating it as an annual, re-planting again each fall.

Tulips originated in the dry hillsides of central Asia in what was then the Ottoman (Turkish) Empire. They were brought to Europe in 1560 and created quite an uproar with their large, beautiful blooms. Carolus Clusius, a French botanist, had tulips stolen out of his garden which started the Dutch tulip industry and spawned the "tulipmania" of the early 1600's. Gardeners, merchants, investors, and speculators paid exorbitant sums for special tulip bulbs. Some people spent the equivalent of thousands of dollars for a single tulip bulb. The madness lasted for several years and spread throughout Europe, but ended abruptly in 1637 when supply caught up with demand. Many of these tulips were prized for their streaked appearance which is actually caused by mosaic virus. These tulips resembled today's Rembrandt tulips. Nineteenth century novelist Alexandre Dumas wrote a book called "The Black Tulip," in which the city of Harlem, Holland offers a reward to the first person who can grow a truly black tulip—a task that is biologically impossible.

Tulips are best planted in full sun in a well drained soil that is still capable of holding some moisture during dry periods. They should be planted in late fall at a depth of 6-8 inches from the top of the bulb. Fertilize with superphosphate or bonemeal. Tulips are hardy in USDA Zones 4-10.

Late March through late May and early June are the best viewing times. We have planted tulips in a variety of colors for you to view. Please come out and enjoy the tulip in all its splendor.



Welcome to the Spring 2010 edition of the *Chatterbox*. Thank you for taking the time to look at what your county park department has planned for you in the



coming months. We are very excited about the activities and programs we have planned. Be sure to get outside early and often this spring.

See you in the parks,

Al Patterson

Spring Softball Registration Information

Be a part of Hamilton County Park Department's softball program. The spring league will begin on April 26. Both co-ed and men's divisions will be available. Games are played Monday through Friday. Registration forms will be available at the administration office and online beginning March 2. The cost is \$370 per team.

For teams who participated in the 2009 season, registration begins March 22.

For all new teams, registration begins April 10.

Questions? Call 317-770-4409

Co-Ed Recreational- Monday and Tuesday

Co-Ed Upper League- Monday

Men's Lower League- Wednesday

Men's Rec. League- Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

Men's Upper League- Thursday



SPRING EXHIBIT: Spring on a Wing

Birds are all around us, yet few people realize the large diversity found in Indiana or know about the astonishing habits of these amazing feathered, dynamos! For example, over 100 species of birds can easily be observed in our area through the months of April and May or Downy Woodpeckers and other small birds will “mob” much larger birds (like hawks) if they feel threatened? Put a “spring” in your step as you “migrate” to the Cool Creek Nature Center to learn more about these creatures. Information about specific birds, like woodpeckers, will be featured, as well as general bird-related facts about conservation, nesting, and habitats. Free daily crafts, our popular treasure chest, and scavenger hunts will also be available to all those that “flock” to this interactive exhibit. While you’re here, be sure to check out our Wildlife Viewing Area or a take hike to get a look at wild birds along the trails of Cool Creek Park. Please call the Nature Center at 317-774-2500 with additional questions.

Dates: March 22-June 6
Nature Center Closed on: April 2, 4; May 4, 31
Times: Monday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Cost: Free



park programs



Pajama-Rama ★

Put on your cutest pair of pajamas, grab your favorite teddy bear, pack up an old blanket, and join us at the Cool Creek Nature Center for Pajama-Rama! Families looking for a fun program to enjoy with their toddlers and preschoolers will love the music educator from Moriah Music who will lead us in songs and stories about some of our favorite animals.

Dates: March 12, April 9, and May 7
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Ages: Best for families with children ages 1-7
Cost: Free
Location: Cool Creek Nature Center
Pre-registration: Yes, call 317-774-2500 or email at cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Puppets Are Popping Up

Come laugh and learn with Miss Diane Breier and her puppet pals this spring. Audience members will enjoy the fun nature-themed stories she has in store!

Dates: Tuesday, March 16
Tuesday, March 30
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Cost: Free
Ages: Best for ages 2-6
Location: Cool Creek Nature Center



The park staff will occasionally take pictures of participants at our parks, programs, and special events. Photos may be used in future publications or online for marketing purposes. If you do not want your picture taken, please inform the photographer.

Animals of Spring ★

Silly Safaris will be visiting the Cool Creek Nature Center to take us on an educational and crazy trip. We will learn about some of the interesting spring animals in our area and around the world. Silly Safaris will share some of their amazing adaptations and silly characteristics!

Date: Monday, April 5
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Ages: Best for school aged children
Location: Cool Creek Nature Center

Snake, Rattle, and Roll ★

Slimy and scary are typical words used to describe snakes, but don't believe everything you hear! Mark Booth, Director of Take Flight Wildlife Education, will be bringing some snakes and to educate guests about these remarkable creatures.

Date: Tuesday, April 6
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Ages: Best for school aged children
Location: Cool Creek Nature Center

History's Mysteries ★

Have you ever wanted to be a detective? Historians and Archaeologists solve mysteries like detectives. Come join us and help solve a mystery!

Date: Tuesday, April 6
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Ages: 6-13
Location: Taylor Center of Natural History, Strawtown Koteewi Park
Pre-registration: Yes, call 317-984-5556 or email at taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Creepy Critters ★

Snakes, tarantulas, and scorpions can give anyone that creepy-crawly feeling! Snakehead Ed isn't afraid of them and will be sharing them with you! He will also dispel many of the myths people have about these fascinating creatures.

Date: Wednesday, April 7
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Ages: Best for school aged children
Location: Cool Creek Nature Center

Adventures in Archaeology ★

Want to know what archaeology is all about? Get dirty and learn what really goes on in the field with our simulated excavation. Please come dressed for digging!

Date: Wednesday, April 7
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Ages: 6-13
Location: Taylor Center of Natural History
Pre-registration: Yes, call 317-984-5556 or email at taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Exotic Feline Rescue Center Program ★

We are happy to welcome Jean Herrberg, staff member and licensed teacher with the Exotic Feline Rescue Center, as she presents an interactive and educational program about the Center and the magnificent creatures in their care. The mission of the Exotic Feline Rescue Center is to provide permanent homes for exotic felines that have been abused or abandoned and educate the public about these beautiful cats.

Date: Thursday, April 8
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Ages: Best for school aged children
Location: Cool Creek Nature Center

Project WILD Training Session ★

Calling all public, private, and homeschool teachers, scout troop leaders, and youth group staff! Join a Hamilton County Park naturalist at Cool Creek Nature Center for an all-day training session in the popular school curriculum, Project WILD. Once you have completed the training, you will receive two activity guides jam-packed with activities that span many subject areas including science, language arts, social studies, art, and music. To register or for more information, contact Amanda Smith via e-mail at amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov or by calling 317-774-2501.

Date: Friday, April 9
Time: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Cost: FREE
Participants: Educators Only
Location: Cool Creek Nature Center
Pre-registration: Yes, by March 31



Look for the ★ for
programs scheduled
over Spring Break!

Amphibian Adventures ★

How much do you know about amphibians? Join Naturalist Megan Gutierrez at Coxhall Gardens and find out! Come have some interactive fun at the wetland and meet some of Cool Creek Nature Center's amphibians.

Date: Saturday, April 10
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Ages: Best for school aged children
Location: Coxhall Gardens

Warblers for Beginners ★

The program will explore the life history and basic identification of 10-15 warblers. The warblers to be discussed can be seen here in central Indiana during migration and some will even breed here. Come and learn about the North American jewels of the bird world from the Amos W. Butler Education Committee.

Date: Saturday, April 17
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Cost: Free
Ages: All
Location: Cool Creek Nature Center

Distinguished Trees of Hamilton County

We would like to locate and recognize large trees within Hamilton County. HCPR would like to know if you or someone you know has a large tree! We are also looking for trees that have an important historical value.

Nominate your special tree by filling out an application. Each application will require measurement of the tree and other basic information. Copies of the application and measuring instructions may be downloaded at www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com.

Applications can also be mailed to you upon request. Once the application is received, you will be contacted by a naturalist for further details.

There is a specific list of the types of trees that can be nominated. Visit our website (www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com) for more information or call 317-774-2502.

Collection Identification

Do you have some arrowheads, stone tools, or other Native American artifacts about which you would like to know more? Archaeologist Jim Mohow will help artifact collectors identify personal collection pieces. When possible, Mr. Mohow will give you the dates and stories associated with these fascinating relics of the past and the people who used them.

Date: Saturday, May 8
Time: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Cost: Free
Location: Taylor Center of Natural History

Honey Bee Catastrophe: What's the Buzz?

Discover why honey bees are in danger and why they are so important to plants, animals and us! Krispn Given of Purdue Entomology will teach us all about bees with a slide show and a live observational hive so you can see bees up close. Find out what you can do to help this species that is so vital to our existence.



Date: Saturday, May 15
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Ages: All
Cost: Free
Location: Cool Creek Nature Center

Be a Parks Partner!

Volunteering for the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department can be a fun and rewarding experience!

Volunteer opportunities include general park up-keep, assisting with special events, help with gardening, caring for the Nature Center's wildlife friends, greenhouse work, gardening, landscaping, cleaning, socializing, and education.



You can also check out the programs and events in this issue! Look for the ! All programs with this symbol are looking for volunteers!

To volunteer, please contact Kurtis Baumgartner at 317-770-4404 or visit our website at www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com

Camp Registration Day

Date: Saturday, March 13
Time: Registration begins at 10:00 a.m.
Location: Cool Creek Nature Center

The Cool Creek Nature Staff is gearing up for another exciting camp season! Registration will be held earlier this year. Only registration for our paid Day Camps will take place on March 13. Registration opportunities for our free Nature Programs will be made available in June and will be accepted by telephone, walk-ins, or e-mail. Please look for further details regarding our Nature Programs in the summer *Chatterbox*.

To register your child for a Day Camp, a registration form must be completed by the day of registration. These forms will be taken no earlier than Saturday, March 13, beginning at 10:00 a.m. and must be completed by the parent/legal guardian of the child. Payment must be received on the day of registration. Registration forms will be made available for pick up at the Cool Creek Nature Center beginning Friday, February 27. Patrons may also visit our website at www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com beginning February 9, to download the registration packet which consists of multiple pages.

Our staff has attempted to make the registration process as simple and as fast for our patrons as possible. However, due to the demand for these programs, we suggest parents anticipate a wait. HCPR staff may issue tickets to each person in line once the line length and/or weather deems necessary. Ticket release time is undetermined until registration morning.

Note: HCP&R will allow relatives or family friends to register children as long as the parent/legal guardian of that child has completed the registration form. A strict limit of four additional children per registering family will be applied.

Parents can only sign their child up for one session of the age appropriate camp and children are only permitted to attend the camp for their designated age group.

A limited number of spaces are available and registration for each camp and session is on a first-come, first served basis.

Contact the Cool Creek Nature Center at 317-774-2500 with any questions.

Cancellations:

Unfortunately, NO REFUNDS will be made available after a child is registered. If a child is unable to attend camp for any reason, a credit may be made available towards the next year's camp in 2011. A cancellation form must be completed and approved by the Camp Coordinators in order to receive any credits. This credit may be applied to a child within the same family at the same address. If the credit is not applied to camp in 2011 then the credit is forfeited. Camp availability is on a first-come, first-served basis. A credit towards next year's camp is not a guarantee that a spot will be available for that child. Any available opening will be made to the next available person on the waiting list, as determined by the HCPR staff. Cancellation forms are available at Cool Creek Nature Center or online at www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com. Any concerns towards the cancellation policy may be addressed to the HCPR's Department Director, Al Patterson at the Hamilton County Administration Office by phone at 317-770-4400.

Cool Creek CAMPS

Explorer Safari Session 1

Ages: 6-7
Dates: June 14-18
Time: 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Fee: \$60

Explorer Safari Session 2

Ages: 6-7
Dates: June 14-18
Time: 1:00-3:30 p.m.
Fee: \$60

Ranger Adventure Session 1

Ages: 8-10
Dates: June 21-25
Time: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Fee: \$70

Junior Outdoor Skills Session 1

Ages: 11-13
Dates: June 28-July 2
Time: 10:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. (Monday-Wednesday)
(Thursday 10:00 a.m.-all night/Friday pickup at 10:00 a.m.)
Fee: \$80

Ranger Adventure Session 2

Ages: 8-10
Dates: July 12-16
Time: 10:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m.
Fee: \$70

Junior Outdoor Skills Session 2

Ages: 11-13
Dates: July 19-23
Time: 10:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. (Monday-Wednesday)
(Thursday 10:00 a.m.-all night/Friday pickup at 10:00 a.m.)
Fee: \$80

Ranger Adventure Session 3

Ages: 8-10
Dates: July 26-30
Time: 10:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m.
Fee: \$70

Junior Outdoor Skills Session 3

Ages: 11-13
Dates: August 2-6
Time: 10:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. (Monday-Wednesday)
(Thursday 10:00 a.m.-all night/Friday pickup at 10:00 a.m.)
Fee: \$80



Maple Syrup Program

Get “sappy” with Hamilton County Parks. The staff will be demonstrating the tapping process on some of the same trees that the Bray Family tapped over the last 150 years. Traditional and modern equipment used in the process will be featured as well as information about the folklore, history, and facts about maple trees.

Date: Saturday, March 6

Time: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Cost: Free

Ages: All

Location: Bray Family Homestead Park

Pre-registration: Yes, by calling 317-774-2500 or email: cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

outdoor programs



Star and Satellite Gazing Tours

Join Dr. Ronald Weiss, adjunct professor of Astronomy and Earth Science for Vincennes University, for a fascinating evening of star and satellite watching. Amateur astronomer Dan Malone, of Wabash Valley Astronomical Society, will be assisting Dr. Weiss as the group learns about and attempts to view the stars, planets, constellations, satellites, and deep sky objects that are visible each month. In the event that the sky is cloudy, an indoor astronomy program is planned. You are welcome to bring your own telescope or binoculars, but we ask that pets are left at home. This program will meet near the Taylor Center of Natural History.

Dates: Saturday, March 20 at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 17 at 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 15, at 9:00 p.m.

Ages: Best for families with school aged children and adults

Cost: Free

Location: TCNH-SKP

Beginning Bird Hikes ★

Birds are fascinating and watching them can be an awe-inspiring experience. Catching a glimpse of these gorgeous creatures however can be frustrating, and learning how to identify all of them can be overwhelming! Join our Naturalist staff and other guest leaders (when available) Sunday and Wednesday mornings and we will all learn together. This is a great opportunity for bird-watchers of all levels. Pre-registration is not required. Don't forget your binoculars!

Cool Creek Park: These hikes meet in the north parking lot of Cool Creek Park; past the Nature Center.

Dates: March 7, 10, 17, 21, 24, 31; April 14, 18, 21, 28; May 2, 12, 16, 19, 26, 30

Days: Wednesday and every other Sunday (with the exception of the first Wednesday of each month)

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Strawtown Koteewi Park: These hikes will meet at the Taylor Center of Natural History.

Dates: March 3; April 7; May 5

Time: 8:30 a.m.

American Woodcock walk

Unusual, weird, romantic, and unique are all words used to describe the American Woodcock. Come experience this bird for yourself at Strawtown Koteewi Park as male Woodcocks perform their aerial courtship displays for the females in the prairie at dusk! The Naturalist-led group will likely explore other twilight and nocturnal happenings in the park as well. This program will begin in the Taylor Center of Natural History.

Date: Saturday, March 20

Saturday, March 27

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Ages: All

Cost: Free

Location: Taylor Center of Natural History, Strawtown Koteewi Park

Pre-registration: No



Tike Hike-Bird Hike★

Join a Hamilton County Park Naturalist and members of the Amos W. Butler Audubon Society as we ignite children's interest in bird watching. A short, indoor program, outdoor bird hike, and craft will be included in this program. We will meet in the Cool Creek Nature Center.

Date: Thursday, April 8
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Ages: All
Cost: Free
Location: Cool Creek Nature Center

Spring Wildflower Hikes

Walk the trails with a Naturalist in search of beautiful spring wildflowers. You won't want to miss the opportunity to see these flowers as they make their brief, but enchanting appearance in our forests this spring. A Naturalist will discuss a variety of topics during the hike including medicinal and edible attributes of the flowers as well as folklore associated with them. Please meet in the Nature Center.

Dates: Saturday, April 17
Saturday, May 22
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Cost: Free
Ages: All
Location: Cool Creek Park

Spring Migration Bird Hikes

Dust off your binoculars and catch a peek of some beautiful birds as they make their annual trip north this spring. The hikes are led by well-known birder, Keith Starling. Hurry, some birds will not stay around long! After your hike, stop by the Nature Center's wildlife viewing room for coffee and doughnuts. Spring migration bird hikes meet in the north parking lot of Cool Creek Park.

Dates: April 24; May 1, 15, 22, 29
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Cost: Free
Ages: All
Location: Cool Creek Park

Arbor Day Tree Hike

Celebrate Arbor Day as the trees' new leaves unfurl and their flowers bloom. Our Naturalist staff is eager to share information about these magnificent plants and their annual rebirth each spring. This hike will begin inside the Taylor Center of Natural History.

Date: Saturday, May 1
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Ages: All
Cost: Free
Location: Strawtown Koteewi Park

Orienteering 101

Point your compass toward Strawtown Koteewi Park for hands-on fun as we learn to use a map and compass, understand topography, and tackle a compass-led orienteering course. This fun and educational program is great for boy scouts working on their orienteering merit badge, as well as anyone interested in hiking and navigation.

Date: Saturday, May 1
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Cost: Free
Ages: 8 years old up
Pre-registration: Yes, by calling 317-984-5556 or email taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov
Location: Strawtown Koteewi Park

Audubon May Bird Count

Volunteer to help the HCP&R and the Indiana Audubon Society as we count birds throughout our county. This annual count takes place on International Migratory Bird Day and the results are a valuable tool in tracking bird populations throughout the United States. Bird watchers of different skill levels will be paired together and assigned to various areas of the county. After the morning festivities, an optional lunch will be provided in the Cool Creek Nature Center. To participate call the Cool Creek Nature Center at 317-774-2500.

Date: Saturday, May 8
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Fee: \$1.00/participant
Location: Cool Creek Nature Center and County-wide
Pre-registration: Yes, by calling 317-774-2500 or email: cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

HooSier Field Archaeology

Ever wonder how archaeologists know where to dig? Join our Strawtown Koteewi staff archaeologists as we investigate a simulated site. Includes a hike to several of our park's actual sites and discussion of how to identify and record sites. This program can be used to help fulfill the boy scout archaeology merit badge. Please dress for outdoor activity. Adults can join us for an afternoon session to learn more specifically how to record sites with the state of Indiana.

Date: Saturday, April 24
Times: 11:00 a.m. Children ages 8 and up; 2:00 p.m. Adult session
Cost: Free
Pre-registration: Yes, by calling 317-984-5556 or e-mail taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov
Location: TCNH-SKP

Help-a-Park-Out Day

Scouts, families, gardening organizations or anyone who likes to work outside is invited to Cool Creek Park to help our staff remove the invasive Garlic Mustard plant, pick-up trash, remove trash from the creek, and participate in other projects that help beautify our park. Volunteering can include as little or as much time as each person would like. Volunteer check-in and refreshments are located inside the Nature Center.

Date: Saturday, May 15
Time: 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Cost: Free
Ages: All
Location: Cool Creek Park

Geocaching Hike ★

"Cache" in on this hike! Join a Naturalist at Cool Creek Park for a "treasure hunt!" Geocaching is becoming a popular family pastime and is a great excuse to get outside! Come learn how fun geocaching can be and help us hunt down some hidden treasures in Cool Creek Park! If you already own a GPS (Global Positioning System), please bring it. If not, we can share. **Spots are limited to prevent off-trail damage, so sign up today!** Please remember to dress "ready to hike."

Date: Saturday, May 22
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Ages: Best for ages 8 and up
Cost: Free
Pre-registration: Yes, by calling 317-774-2500 or email: cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov
Location: Cool Creek Park

Frog Chorus Hike

The nightly chorus of our froggy friends is at full volume in late spring. Join us on a short hike to discover the fun and unique sounds of our native frogs and toads. We'll identify common Indiana species and create our own amphibian orchestra! This program meets some requirements for the Scout Reptile & Amphibian Merit Badge. Dress for an evening outdoors.

Date: Friday, May 28
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Cost: No
Ages: All
Location: SKP
Pre-registration: Yes, by calling 317-984-5556 or e-mail taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov



Robin

*fledglings are leaving the nest
and can be found hopping around your yard.
Don't worry, they are still under the
watchful eye (and care) of their
mothers.*

Strawtown Enclosure-Native American Village Tours

Our interpretive staff will be conducting tours of the Strawtown Enclosure for interested guests. During these tours we will discuss the details known thus far regarding the Native Americans who built and used the "enclosure" and village over 700 years ago. The tours will begin inside the Taylor Center of Natural History and include a short stroll to the village site. For more information, please contact us at 317-984-5556.

Dates: Saturdays at 11:00 a.m.
Sundays at 2:00 p.m.
Ages: All
Cost: Free
Location: Strawtown Koteewi Park

Note: A tour will not be offered when the building is closed April 4.





Tails 'n Trails



Come out to Potter's Bridge Park and enjoy the day with man's best friend and help support the Hamilton County Humane Society! Check out the local exhibitor booths and find a new gadget or toy for your buddy. Activities throughout the day will include music, games, food, contests, and more!!

Date: May 15, 2010

Time: 11:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$5 per car, donated to Hamilton County Humane Society

Location: Potters Bridge Park

Battle of the Bands



The Cool Creek Park Music Pavilion will turn into an epic battle site for local under 21 talent this May! Bands will rock out for a chance to win a recording package and get the opportunity to be the opening act for our 2010 Cool Creek Concert Series. Second place is just as savory, a five hour recording opportunity. For entry information, contact 317-770-4400.

Date: Thursday, May 27

Time: 5:00 - 10:30 p.m.

Cost: Entry into the battle \$25 per band
Audience entry is free

Location: Cool Creek Park



Earth Day 2010

Love your mother earth and get rid of your old hazardous waste this Earth Day. Pack up your car or truck and head to the Hamilton County Hazardous Waster Center. Examples of hazardous waste includes: batteries, paint, cleaners, computers, fertilizers, thermometers, refrigerators, televisions, VCRs, and telephones. For a complete list of items, please visit www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov and click on the Household Hazardous Waste link.

Date: Saturday, April 24

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: Household Hazardous Waste Center,
1717 Pleasant Street, Noblesville

Special events



Trash to Treasure Lawn Sale



Clean out your house, shed, garage or where ever you have junk stashed and bring it to Cool Creek Park for our inaugural community garage sale event. Remember, your trash can be another person's treasure! Tables will be available for rent if you do not have one. You are responsible for set-up and tear down of your own sale. Take this opportunity to make a few extra bucks for your summer! After the event, an opportunity to donate your leftover items to a good cause will be made available.

Date: Saturday, June 19

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$5 per 10 x10 space
\$5 per table (if you need to rent)

Location: Cool Creek Park

Operating Dates:

April 15- October 31

Location:

11299 East 234th Street
Cicero, IN

Amenities:

100 modern campsites
7 primitive campsites
water, electric & sewer hook-ups
camp store, includes bait and tackle
recreation room
restrooms
shower facility
laundry facility
playground
picnic shelter
White River access

white river campground

Reservations are now being accepted
for the 2010 and 2011 camping
season. Please call 317-984-2705 for
your reservation.

CAMP SITE / FACILITY	DAILY		WEEKLY	
	Hamilton County	Out of County	Hamilton County	Out of County
Full Hook-up	\$18	\$20	\$108	\$120
Electric and Water	\$17	\$19	\$102	\$114
Primitive Site	\$14	\$15	\$84	\$90
Day Visitor	\$1	\$2	N/A	N/A
Recreation Room Rental	\$60	\$70	N/A	N/A
Shelter House Rental	\$60	\$70	N/A	N/A
Boat Launch	\$3	\$5	N/A	N/A
Dump Station	\$5	\$6	N/A	N/A

Family Fun Nights

Join us at White River Campground for family fun nights! One night a month, we will entertain you and your family. Various entertainers will be there throughout the season to make your stay more enjoyable. For more information, please call the campground at 317-984-2705.

Dates: May 1

Tree Giveaway

Help the earth by planting a tree! All campers will receive a seedling upon arrival. You can also get a chance to meet the department's mascot, Chatterbox!

May 29

Live Music

Head over to the main picnic shelter for some live music, featuring the band Country Mile!

June 12

Kids Fest

We'll keep the kids entertained! Send them over to the front lawn for fun times at the bounce house and craft! Kids will also enjoy the performance of Mark and Max!

July 3

Live Music

Head over to the main picnic shelter for some live music, featuring country band Sidekix!

July 17

Christmas in July

Unpack your holiday decorations and deck out your campsite for this out of ordinary weekend! We'll offer "sleigh" rides, a Christmas movie, and a possible appearance from Santa!

August 7

Kids Fest

A magician will entertain the little ones for this fun night! A craft will also be available, as well as the bounce house.

September 4

Live Music

Head over to the main picnic shelter for some live music, featuring Linda Lee!

October 16

Halloween

Trick or Treating, campsite decoration contest, and hayrides will be taking over the campground.

October 24

Year End Celebration



Coxhall Gardens Centerpiece and Cripe Pavilion

Looking for a beautiful and serene location to hold your upcoming wedding and reception? The Coxhall Gardens Centerpiece and Cripe Pavilion is now ready to rent for weddings, wedding receptions, and any other special event you may have on your calendar. Rental is available from April through October.

For more information and to rent this facility, please call Ritz Charles at 317-846-9158.

Osprey Pointe Pavilion

Planning a shower, wedding reception, or any other special event? Our indoor rental facility at Morse Park and Beach is looking good and waiting for to you to rent! Osprey Pointe is located on the bank of Morse Reservoir with a beautiful view of the water and sunset. The facility's seating capacity is 101 people and has a kitchenette and restrooms.

Facility Rental Rate:	\$160.50 for 4 hours
Non-resident Rate:	\$240.75 for 4 hours
Additional Hours:	\$42.80 per hour
Damage Deposit:	\$100
Alcohol Deposit:	\$400

Rental Rates include an on-site security guard and use of all tables and chairs.

park rentals



Park Shelters

Looking for a place to have a picnic and enjoy the warm weather? Our affordable picnic shelters are a perfect way to have a get-together! Shelter rental is available from May 1 until September 30

- Shelter rentals are for all-day use.
- No refunds.
- We accept cash, check, money order, VISA or Mastercard.

To rent a shelter, please call 317-770-4400

Cool Creek Park	Shelter Size	County Resident	Non-County Resident
Shelter A,B,C,D	20' x 30'	\$50 + tax	\$80 + tax

- Grill located at each shelter.
- Shelters hold appoximately 50 people.

Morse Park and Beach	Shelter Size	County Resident	Non-County Resident
Shelter A,C,D	20' x 30'	\$50 + tax	\$80 + tax
Shelter B	30' x 40'	\$100 + tax	\$140 + tax

- Grill located at each shelter.
- Shelters A, C, and D hold approximately 50 people.
- Shelter B holds approximately 100 people.

March

	Monday 1	Tuesday 2	Wednesday 3	Thursday 4	Friday 5	Saturday 6
			Beginning Bird Hike@ SKP			Maple Syrup Program Enclosure Tour
7 Enclosure Tour Beginning Bird Hike	8	9	10 Beginning Bird Hike	11	12 Pajama Rama	13 Camp Registration Enclosure Tour
14 Enclosure Tour	15	16 Puppet Show	17 Beginning Bird Hike	18	19	20 Star/Satellite Tour Woodcock Walk Enclosure Tour
21 Enclosure Tour Beginning Bird Hike	22 Spring Exhibit Begins	23	24 Beginning Bird Hike	25	26	27 Woodcock Walk Enclosure Tour
28 Enclosure Tour	29	30 Puppet Show	31 Beginning Bird Hike			

April

				1	2 Facilities Closed	3 Enclosure Tour
4 Facilities Closed	5 Animals of Spring	6 Snake Rattle Roll History's Mysteries	7 Beginning Bird Hike@ SKP Adv. in Archeology Creepy Critters	8 Tike Hike EFRC	9 Pajama Rama Project WILD	10 Enclosure Tour Amphibian Adventures
11 Enclosure Tour	12	13	14 Beginning Bird Hike	15 Campground Opens	16	17 Enclosure Tour Warbler Program Star/Satellite Tour Wildflower Hike
18 Enclosure Tour Beginning Bird Hike	19	20	21 Beginning Bird Hike	22 EARTH DAY	23	24 Enclosure Tour Mig. Bird Hike Hoosier Field Arch.
25 Enclosure Tour	26	27	28	29 ARBOR DAY	30	

May

						1 Enclosure Tour Arbor Day Hike Orienteering Hike Mig. Bird Hike
2 Beginning Bird Hike Enclosure Tour	3	4 Facilities Closed	5 Beginning Bird Hike @ SKP	6	7 Pajama Rama	8 Enclosure Tour Collection ID May Bird Count
9 Enclosure Tour	10	11	12 Beginning Bird Hike	13	14	15 Mig. Bird Count Tails N Trails Help a Park Out Day Honey Bee Program Star/Satellite Tour
16 Beginning Bird Hike Enclosure Tour	17	18	19 Beginning Bird Hike	20	21	22 Enclosure Tour Wildflower Hike Geocaching Hike Mig. Bird Hike
23 Enclosure Tour	24	25	26 Beginning Bird Hike	27 Battle of the Bands	28 Frog Chorus	29 Enclosure Tour Mig. Bird Hike
30 Beginning Bird Hike Enclosure Tour	31 Facilities Closed					

	bathhouse	beach	boat dock	fishing	canoe launch	music pavilion	picnic tables	picnic shelters	restrooms	playground	disc golf	soccer fields	baseball/softball	basketball court	volleyball court	bicycling	greenspace	nature trail	paved trail	equestrian trail	camping	wetland/prairie	
1. Administration Office 15513 South Union Street, Carmel																							317-770-4400
2. Bray Family Homestead Park 4528 St. Road 38, Noblesville																							317-770-4400
3. Cool Creek Park 2000 East 151st Street, Carmel																							317-774-2500 Cool Creek Nature Center
4. Coxhall Gardens 116th and Towne Road, Carmel																							317-770-4400
5. Geist Park 10979 Florida Road, Fortville																							317-770-4400
6. Lafayette Trace Park Strawtown Avenue East, White River Twp.																							317-770-4400
7. Morse Park and Beach 19777 Morse Park Lane, Noblesville																							317-770-4400
8. Potter's Bridge Park 19401 N. Allisonville Road, Noblesville																							317-770-4400
9. River Road Park 12575 River Road, Carmel																							317-770-4400
10. Riverwood Canoe Launch																							317-770-4400
11. Stoops Rookery (unofficial name)																							317-770-4400
12. Strawtown Koteewi Park 12308 Strawtown Avenue, Noblesville																							317-984-5556 Taylor Center
13. White River Campground 11299 East 234th Street, Cicero																							317-984-2705





Hamilton County Parks and Recreation
15513 South Union Street
Carmel, Indiana 46033

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Help the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department reduce paper waste and save money in 2010!

Do you want to be removed from the Chatterbox mailing list?

Do you want to update the mailing label with a new name?

Do you want to sign up for E-Chatter?

(E-Chatter is a bi-weekly email reminding you of upcoming programs and events. It also has direct links to our park website.)

If so, please do one of the following:

Call: 317-770-4400

Visit: www.enfront.com/HamiltonCountyParks

Email: hamilton.parks@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

